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News Release

ICE DEPORTS 2 MEN WANTED FOR MURDER IN MEXICO

ICE has returned 13 Mexican fugitives, Mexico has returned 5 U.S. fugitives in '05

EL PASO, Texas — Members of the Fugitive Operations Team with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) today deported two Mexican fugitives wanted in connection to a two-year-old murder. Both wanted men were in the country illegally.

ICE DRO escorted Valente Alvarado Silos, 21, and his cousin, Aaron Alvarado Lopez, 28, to the Stanton Street international bridge where the two men were turned over to Mexican authorities. These types of deportations are part of a bi-national agreement between ICE DRO and Mexico's Procuraduria General de la Republica (PGR), or Mexican attorney general's office. To date this year, ICE DRO has returned 13 Mexican fugitives wanted for serious crimes. In turn the PGR has located five U.S. fugitives in Mexico and turned them over to ICE.

"This partnership between our two countries has proved to be a win-win situation," said Robert Jolicoeur, field operations director for ICE DRO in El Paso. "We're expeditiously removing dangerous criminals from our country, and assisting in bringing them to justice in their country of origin. We will not allow the United States to become a safe heaven for criminal aliens."

According to the PGR, on April 21, 2002, Alvarado Silos and an accomplice allegedly shot Ituriel Wilfrido Silos multiple times outside a hamburger stand in a town in the Mexican state of Coahuila. Silos fell face down, and it was then that Alvarado Lopez got out of a vehicle and allegedly shot Silos in the head.

Alvarado Silos fled to the United States, where he had been living illegally ever since. Police officers in Portland, Ind., arrested him and Alvarado Lopez during a routine traffic stop Sept. 2. The two men were turned over to ICE DRO in Indiana, and they arrived in El Paso Friday afternoon. They were detained at the El Paso Processing Center until their removal today.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.